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1970/08/18

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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National Security Study Memorandum 99

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: U.S. Strategy for Southeast Asia

The President has directed that a complete review and analysis of U.S. strategy alternatives for Southeast Asia for the period 1970-1975 be undertaken. The study should devise U.S. strategy alternatives consistent with:

-- alternative statements of U.S. interests,

-- assessments of the enemy's interests and goals,

-- an analysis of enemy capabilities,

-- an analysis of the interests and capabilities of the non-communist nations of Southeast Asia, including the prospects for increased regional cooperation,

-- an analysis of the potential for U.S. military and economic assistance and assistance from other non-communist nations, and

-- an analysis of possible roles for U.S. forces in Southeast Asia.

Each strategy should be accompanied by an appraisal of its cost and political consequences.

The study will be carried out under the direction of the Special Review Group for Southeast Asia and will be organized as follows:

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BY [illegible] NLF, DATE 3/2/2000

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-- Interests Panel

-- Diplomatic Options Panel

-- Military Strategy Options Panel

-- Economic and Military Assistance Panel

Membership of each panel shall comprise representatives of the Departments of State and Defense, Central Intelligence Agency, Joint Chiefs of Staff and the National Security Council Staff. The Economic and Military Assistance Panel shall include also representatives of the Office of Management and Budget and the Agency for International Development.

The Working Group presently constituted to support the Vietnam Special Studies Group also will support the Special Review Group for Southeast Asia in the conduct of this study, and will prepare a detailed study plan and supervise and coordinate the work of the panels. In the conduct of the study the panels will consider and utilize as appropriate the studies prepared in response to NSSM's 51, 94 and 95, previous Vietnam Special Studies Group papers and relevant National Intelligence Estimates.

As an initial interim step in the overall study alternative short-range military strategies for Cambodia should be developed. This paper should be submitted to the Chairman, Special Review Group for Southeast Asia not later than September 4, 1970.

The completed study should be submitted to the Chairman, Special Review Group for Southeast Asia by September 30, 1970.

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Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Director, Office of Management and Budget
Administrator, Agency for International Development

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